THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Universal Service Obligation (USO) levy is collected @ 5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of all telecom service providers except the pure value added service providers like Internet, Voice Mail, E-mail, Service Providers, etc. This levy is deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is funded through budgetary allocation with approval of the Parliament.

(b) Total amount collected as USO levy is Rs. 10,886.58 crore till June, 2006. Total amount credited into USOF through budgetary allocation is Rs. 5081.44 crore till June, 2006.

(c) The average amount deposited in USOF during each of the years and average amount being spent annually from 2002-03 to 2005-06 come to Rs. 895.36 crore.

Increasing incidents of hacking computer system

†1656. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the incidents of hacking of computer system in the country,

(b) whether banks and other institutions are likely to suffer heavy loss as a result thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken and proposed to be taken by Government to check such practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) With the greater use of computers, a general increase in hacking has been noticed worldwide. In India also a similar trend has been observed. While there are recognized security

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

measures and practices to counter these hazards, there is the possibility of losses if any institution as to fail to adopt such available safeguards. Guidance in the area of information security in the financial sector is provided by the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT). Additionally, wherever required, advisories are issued by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).

Revenue generated by BSNL

1657. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL is offering varied plan for home users to increase the revenue and to compete with the private players;

(b) if so, the plans existing so far; and

(c) the revenue generated during the last two years in each category, State-wise, rural and urban-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL is offering various alternative packages for all customers including home users across the country based on their need and also to compete with the private players.

(b) The details of various plans offered by BSNL for Fixed Line (including WLL) and Cellular services are given in Statement I and Statement II. (*See* below).

(c) The revenue generated during the last two years separately for Fixed and Cellular services, Rural and Urban and Telecom Circle-wise are given in Statement III and IV. (*See* below).